COMMANDEMENT DES OPERATIONS SPECIALES

TG ARES - Figures

209 men :

Senior Officers 7 % Officers : 19 %

Junior Officers 12 %

Senior NCOs 20 % NCO's : 53 %

Junior NCOs 33 %

PVTS 28 % PVTs : 28 %

Average age : 32 years old

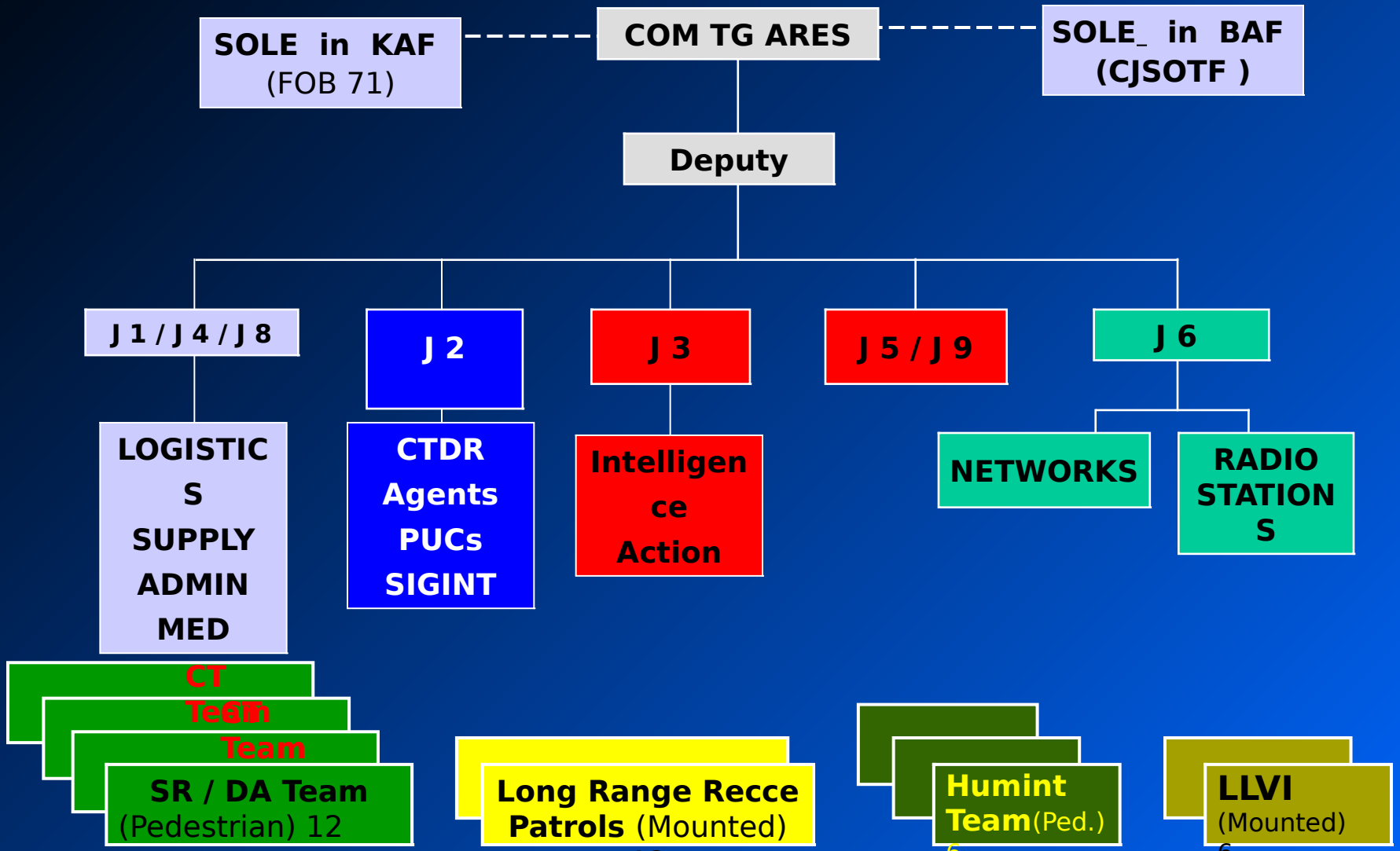
Average Duty time : 12 years

Army : 66 % Navy : 17 % Air Force : 17 % Joint

Previous operations :

Congo – Ex-Yugoslavia – Kosovo – Albania – Afghanistan – Côte d'Ivoire – Djibouti – Lebanon – Iraq I – Republic of Central Africa – Rwanda – Chad –

TG ARES - Structure



Lessons learned from History

- **Chinese guerilla rules**

  --> the main effort should go to HUMINT to understand, fight

  and finally eradicate ENY covert activities

- **French counter guerilla methodology in Algeria**

  --> Political and military actions should be tightly combined

  --> Keep a close link with the populace

  --> Intelligence is of prime importance

  --> OPSEC is vital to survive

- **Spetsnatz in Afghanistan**

  --> Discrimination between locals remains the major concern

DECISIONS

- **Perform according to guerilla warfare rules**
  - work in an area, live in another next to it
  - give priority to Intelligence
  - do your best to UNDERSTAND the people
  - be everywhere, at all times

- **Give priority to countering guerilla goals rather than fighting guerilla warriors**
  - all SOF should develop a comprehensive insight of the situation
  - all officers should take care of keeping the balances at a local and / or regional scale not to let the guerilla work on any imbalance

COAs in AO Arès (1/2)

- "**Nomadisation**" IOT
  - Know the area (landscapes, people, …)
  - gather intelligence (through what you see, hear, feel)
  - know the background noise
  - produce background noise
    (be seen everywhere, often but not for long,
    meet officials)
  - "forget" OP's
- **Cordon and search**
- **Actions of opportunity**
  - upon conjunction
  - according to intelligence

COAs in AO Arès (2/2)

- **Develop networks**
  - Friends
  - Agents
- **Deploy mobile FOBs**
  - in remote places
  - for long periods of time
  - supported by technical assets (IMINT, SIGINT)
- **Promote synergy**
  - with Afghan officials
  - with Afghan forces (Police, AMF…)
  - with Pakistani officials

Lessons learned in Afghanistan

- **Global approach**

  - Understand the stakes for everyone in order to provide
    the proper answers
  - Perform in a global manner, on all fronts at the same time

- **Tactical approach**

  - No dichotomy between Intelligence and action. Go from
    cooperation to synergy
  - Be versatile to respond to emerging situations
  - Master the effects of your behavior